

SIMEON STEDMAN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 718.]

JANUARY 16, 1857.

Mr. SAPP, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Simeon Stedman, having had the same under consideration, report:

That the petitioner was a private in Captain Christopher Ripley's company, thirty-seventh infantry, in the war of 1812, in which he enlisted, (for the second time,) on the 1st of June, 1814, for *during the war*. That on or about the 7th April, 1815, he received a pass signed by Captain E. Warren, in the absence of Major Roswell Lee, then commanding Fort Griswold, Conn., giving him permission to be absent about ten days to visit his mother, who was then sick. That he went under authority of that pass to Southington, where *he* was taken sick and remained so until the month of May or June of the same year. That as soon as he was able—before he was actually well—he returned to Fort Griswold to rejoin his company, but upon his arrival at the fort he found his regiment had been disbanded. That in consequence of his absence beyond the time to which his pass extended he was reported as a deserter, and consequently has received no compensation for the services rendered by him in his second enlistment.

Accompanying the petition there are certified copies of three affidavits—the originals on file in the office of the Third Auditor—fully supporting the petitioner's statements.

The committee, after a thorough examination of this case, are of the opinion that the petitioner is fully entitled to pay for his services in the same manner as if he had been present when his regiment was disbanded; but being "absent," it is usual for the officer in command, not knowing the cause of such absence, to report the absentees as "deserters," but the evidence of three disinterested witnesses fully satisfies the committee that the entry of desertion against this petitioner is, although customary, unfair under the circumstances.

The committee report a bill accordingly for his relief

SIMEON STEDMAN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 718.]

JANUARY 16, 1857.

Mr. SAPP, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Simeon Stedman, having had the same under consideration, report:

That the petitioner was a private in Captain Christopher Ripley's company, thirty-seventh infantry, in the war of 1812, in which he enlisted, (for the second time,) on the 1st of June, 1814, for *during the war*. That on or about the 7th April, 1815, he received a pass signed by Captain E. Warren, in the absence of Major Roswell Lee, then commanding Fort Griswold, Conn., giving him permission to be absent about ten days to visit his mother, who was then sick. That he went under authority of that pass to Southington, where *he* was taken sick and remained so until the month of May or June of the same year. That as soon as he was able—before he was actually well—he returned to Fort Griswold to rejoin his company, but upon his arrival at the fort he found his regiment had been disbanded. That in consequence of his absence beyond the time to which his pass extended he was reported as a deserter, and consequently has received no compensation for the services rendered by him in his second enlistment.

Accompanying the petition there are certified copies of three affidavits—the originals on file in the office of the Third Auditor—fully supporting the petitioner's statements.

The committee, after a thorough examination of this case, are of the opinion that the petitioner is fully entitled to pay for his services in the same manner as if he had been present when his regiment was disbanded; but being "absent," it is usual for the officer in command, not knowing the cause of such absence, to report the absentees as "deserters," but the evidence of three disinterested witnesses fully satisfies the committee that the entry of desertion against this petitioner is, although customary, unfair under the circumstances.

The committee report a bill accordingly for his relief.

